

In the Specification

Please replace paragraph 3 on page 1 with the following:

Among previous proposals for the diagnosis of cancer may be mentioned the following. In U.S. Pat. No. 3,476,514 there was described a method of detecting cancer cells by staining test cells with acriflavine-HCl solution, determining indirectly the dye absorbed by the test cells and comparing with a control JP 56166124A2 proposed a method for diagnosing malignant tumors which utilized an injectable composition containing an endotoxin extracted from cultured bacteria. In GB 1587244, there was described *inter alia*, the use in a serum agglutination test on the sera of patients, for the detection of neoplasm, of an antigen produced by a species of the genus *Streptococcus*.

Please replace 3rd full paragraph 2 on page 5 with the following:

Figures **2A-2B** are pictures obtained by microscope of cancer cells treated with the diagnostic sample of the present invention, the diagnostic samples derived either from a healthy object (Fig. 2A) or from a cancer patient (Fig. 2B).

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 8 with the following:

The cancer cells employed may be any standard culture of cancer cells, for example ATCC HTB-22 (MCF7) . The interaction of the bacteria mixture with the cancer cells includes incubation of the bacteria and cancer cells under conditions suitable for the bacteria to act on the cells. These conditions include suitable temperature (e.g. 37°C), and a time period (in the following examples, 4 hours), sufficient to determine the extent of interaction between the bacteria and the cancer cells, the extent of interaction is determined by the degree of lysis of the cancer cells by the bacteria mixture (the diagnostic sample). This may be observed, for example, by the aid of a microscope or an Automated Computer Assisted Microscope, wherein the number of remaining

cancer cells is counted.

Please replace paragraph 3 on page 8 with the following:

Figures 2A and 2B show microscope pictures obtained after incubation of cancer cells with a bacterial sample obtained from a healthy subject, (Fig. 2A) or from a cancer patient (Fig.2B.) These pictures show that in the presence of a bacterial sample obtained from sick subject, only a few cancer cells remain, i.e. there is an effective lysis of the cancer cells by the bacteria.

Please replace paragraph 3 on page 16 with the following:

Fig. 2A and 2B show microscope pictures of the result of incubation of bacteria samples obtained from cancer patients or healthy subjects (diagnostic samples as prepared by the method of the present invention) with the standard cancer cells. In particular, a larger amount of viable cancer cells are visualized in the culture treated with a sample obtained from sick subject (Fig. 2B), as compared to the result obtained with a bacteria sample obtained from healthy subject (Fig. 2A).